

Potato Day 2023 Varieties

* = Organic, # = Black Isle / locally grown, (year introduced, parent x parent)

First Earlies

Accord

General purpose, high yielding, disease resistant, good for salad or grown on for baking. Tasty.

Arran Pilot (1930 +)

The nation's favourite garden-grown seed potatoes, excellent taste. Added to their early boiling ability, Arran Pilot are great for chipping and versatile enough for baking, mashing and roasting. High yields of white skinned tubers with shallow eyes, has great resistance to all forms of scab and good spraing resistance.

Casablanca * (2009, 85G040-080 x Picasso)

The "new Maris Bard", white with shallow eyes, good for chipping, baking, boiling. Very early. Stores well. Impressive disease resistance.

Colleen * (1993, Manna x Mizen)

Good multipurpose potato, high yielding; waxy, yet mealy, pale yellow. Boils and fries well. Reasonable blight resistance.

Duke of York (1891, Early Primrose x King Kidney)

Red Duke of York (1942, Duke of York variant)

Floury and excellent flavour, but a big disadvantage: very susceptible to blight on both leaves and tubers. Red skin / pink skin / yellow skin, pale yellow flesh, oval shape. More vigorous than white D of Y. Best fried, roasted, mashed or baked; boil carefully.

Foremost (1954, Katahdin x (Epicure x Pepo))

A gardeners' favourite, round oval, easy scrubbing, tasty. More floury than most, good baker if allowed to grow. Excellent cooking characteristics.

Lady Christl (1996, WS 73-3-391 x Mansour)

A very good waxy salad potato, very early - a week or so later than Swift / Rocket. Susceptible to foliar blight, fairly good tuber blight resistance. Long oval shape, white skin, yellow flesh. Doesn't like exposed conditions.

Maris Bard * (1972, Y15 139 x Ulster Prince)

Early high yielding, oval, waxy, white. Traditional earthy taste, good new potato, more general purpose if left to mature.

Orla * (1998, O.P. 657/3 x Spunta)

Early or early main crop. Good early yield if chitted. Currently the most blight resistant first early. Can be used as a decent early new potato or grown on as a maincrop when it becomes more general purpose. Stores well, long dormancy. Oval, white.

Pentland Javelin (1968, Craigs Royal x 2356(11) x USDA 41956 x Austr. Seedling)

White, oval, good flavoured new potato. Tends to bulk up later than most first earlies. Show bench quality.

Rocket (1987, F12/17 x D42/8)

Along with Swift the earliest cropping potato available in UK. Round and white, decent crop of smaller tubers. Very good eelworm resistance.

Sharpe's Express (1900)

Another tasty one that's on the floury side. Rated as poor blight resistance but some I've grown have had surprisingly good resistance. Somewhat irregular oval shape, white flesh. Does well locally.

Swift (1994, Stroma x 90-83)

Along with Rocket the earliest cropping potato available in the UK. Oval, cream flesh, bigger tubers than Rocket and can be used for baking, mashing and roasting if left to grow on a bit. Compact plants, good for growing under cloches or fleece. Good for growing in pots and under cover.

Ulster Prince (1947)

A famous first early variety, renowned for their boiling qualities when cooked straight after harvest. Tubers are long and white, with shallow eyes and white flesh. Good resistance to common and powdery scab, they are also unlikely to disintegrate in the pan when boiling. Excellent drought resistance.

Second Earlies

British Queen (1894, Patersons Victoria x Old Blue Don)

Excellent old fashioned floury, high dry matter potato but doesn't disintegrate when boiled gently. Recently awarded RHS Award of Garden Merit, good yields and flavour. Oval, white.

Charlotte * (1981, Hansa x Danae)

Good flavour, high yielding, waxy, salad type. Very popular. Oval, yellow fleshed.

Kestrel (1992, Solanum vernei x Cara)

Pretty, tasty, high yielding, general purpose but slightly on the waxy side. Good for most uses, even roasts OK, and very good baked. White with purple eyes, light yellow flesh.

Marfona (1975, Primura x KO 51-123)

Fairly waxy, short oval, pale yellow flesh, boils well. Buttery flavour and good size make it a good baker.

Maris Peer * #

Local. Good salad/boiling potato - especially if eaten soon after digging; popular, waxy, oval with cream flesh.

Nicola (1973, Clivia x 6430 / 1011)

Produces large number of uniform, smooth oval potatoes good for boiling, salad. Good eelworm resistance.

Sarpo Una *

Multipurpose variety which can produce nice waxy salad potatoes if harvested early or can be left in ground for a heavy crop of baking potatoes. It has good resistance to late blight as well as a range of other diseases.

Saxon

Oval, smooth skinned, cream fleshed and general purpose. Good for baking, high yield and good flavour.

Twinner *

Rather large, oval tubers with a yellow skin- and flesh colour. Rather firm cooking with good consumption characteristics, a rather good dry matter content. Late blight resistant in both foliage and tubers.

Wilja (1967, Climax x Konst 51-123)

Good general purpose, high yield of biggish oval yellow fleshed potatoes. Good flavour.

Maincrop

Allouette *

Red skin, yellow flesh, oval long tubers. Blight resistant, excellent flavour. Roast, bake, slow boil and chip.

Bambino * (2005, Navan x Boxer)

Produces a large number of medium sized round oval, cream fleshed potatoes, good for new potato use. Good flavour, yield and general pest / disease resistance.

Carolus * (2014, Agria x AR 00-9417)

Pink / white skins, oval, light yellow flesh, high-ish dry matter general purpose, excellent roast and good flavour. Very good blight resistance but susceptible to scab, high yields.

Desiree (1962, Urgenta x Depesche)

Bright red skin, high yields of big potatoes, good all round cooking qualities and Delia has made this a favourite.

Harmony (1998)

A very popular variety as they produce large crops of clean, white skinned tubers, that are very resistant to scab. A very good baking potato. Stores well.

Heidi Red *

German Speciality variety with medium blight resistance. Produces long shaped tubers with bright red skin and flesh. A slightly buttery, delicious potato taste, ideal for salads and boiled potatoes.

Highland Burgundy Red (old, unknown)

Red inside! High dry matter, floury, possibly slightly sweet. Makes tasty, fluffy pink mash, fries well, roasts OK. Yields surprisingly well. A good potato. Long oval, red skin and flesh.

Java *

A strong robust variety with excellent fungal, bacterial, virus and pest resistances. Ideal for gardens and allotments as it is a consistently high-yielding variety with attractive long red tubers.

King Edward (1902, Magnum Bonam x Beauty of Hebron)

The reference roasting potato. Good eating and cooking qualities.

Lady Balfour * #

Local. Vigorous, tall plants that do well in low fertility conditions, bred for organic growing, high yield, good disease resistance. Large, oval white tubers with pink eye splashes.

Maris Piper (1963, (Sol Andigena x Ulster Knight) x (Arran Cairn x Herald))

The chippies favourite but slugs like it, too. Good yields and flavour, excellent for frying and mashing. Oval, cream flesh, large tubers.

Ratte (1872)

Similar to Pink Fur Apple but earlier, possibly more productive. Nutty flavour, smooth buttery texture.

Sarpo Kifli (2009 Hungary/Wales)

Firm and waxy with new potato flavour. High yielding, blight resistant.

Setanta * (2004, Rooster x Brodick)

A very good, floury, general purpose / roaster. Good blight and disease resistance, inherited its cooking qualities from Rooster, high yielding and pretty. Oval, red skin, light yellow flesh. Highly recommended.

Shetland Black (late 1800?)

Dark blue skinned, small to medium size tubers with a purple ring under the skin. Moderate yield. Flowery and tasty, good for baking, chips and roasting. Try frying and good for crisps.

Sunset *

Red skinned, creamy coloured flesh. Good in extreme conditions, lovely flavour can be used for boiling, roasting and mashing

Valor

Show great levels of blight resistance matched with the ability to produce large crops of bold white tubers. A high tolerance of heat and drought whilst their flesh is cream coloured and of a floury texture.

Late Maincrop**Arran Victory *** (1912, seedling of Suttons Abundance)

A striking purple skinned, white floury fleshed potato. Excellent for mashing and frying, very good for roasting and baking. Very large plants and high yields.

Cara * (1973, A 25 19 x Ulster Glade)

Tall plants, high yields of often big potatoes, short oval with pink eyes and cream flesh. Good all round disease resistance including eelworm and moderate blight. Slightly waxy, good general purpose.

Golden Wonder * (1906, seedling of Early Rose)

Oval, russet skin, dense white flesh. Floury, good flavour, roasts well, excellent fryer that absorbs little fat. Best stored until after Xmas.

Kerr's Pink (1917, Fortyfold x Smiths Early)

Perhaps the best roaster. Floury, great for mashing and good for frying, too. Yields can be very good, big plant. Roundish, often deep eyes, pink flashes on white skin, white flesh.

Pink Fir Apple (1850)

The legendary salad potato for winter use from store. Knobbly, irregular tubers that should be cooked whole in their skins. Yellowish flesh, excellent flavour. Plants often untidy and prone to wind damage.

Sarpo Mira *

Renowned by many for its resistance to late blight and even blight recovery, this red skinned tuber is oval in shape with pale flesh. High yielding and long storage capacity makes this both a grower and cooker favourite.

Suggestions

Blight resistant: Very good : Sarpo Kifli, Sarpo Mira, Sarpo Una, Twinner; Good : Carolus; Fair : Orla, Bambino, Kestrel, Colleen, Ambo, Cara

Eelworm resistant: Rocket, Maris Piper, Casablanca, Colleen, Bambino, Nicola, Cara

Roast: Kerrs Pink, King Edward, Red Duke of York, Setanta

Mash: Kerrs Pink, Highland Burgundy Red (pink), Red Duke of York, British Queen, Sharpes Express, Maris Piper

Fry/ chips : Maris Piper, Shetland Black, Golden Wonder

Baking : Kestrel, Lady Balfour, Highland Burgundy Red, Marfona, Saxon, Harmony

Salad/ Boiling : Lady Christl, Charlotte, Bambino, Maris Peer, Arran Pilot

Good all rounders : Kestrel, Setanta, British Queen, Orla, Casablanca, Colleen, Sharpes Express, Lady Balfour, Wilja, Ambo, Twinner

Coloured flesh : Highland Burgundy Red, Heidi

Old fashioned (before 1920): Sharpes Express, British Queen, Highland Burgundy Red, Shetland Black, Kerrs Pink, Golden Wonder, King Edward

Modern Classics : Kestrel, Lady Christl, Orla, Setanta, Lady Balfour, Sarpo Mira

Rooster - can't get this year, but maybe try Setanta - one of its parents is Rooster.